

City Grows Up Around Columbia-Geneva Steel

United States Steel's basic steel producer in Southern California is the Torrance Works of the Columbia-Geneva Steel Division which produces semi-finished steel, structural shapes, plates, hot rolled bars and hot-rolled strip at its 164-acre plant. Most of the mill's products are marketed in this area. The city of Torrance has virtually grown up around the

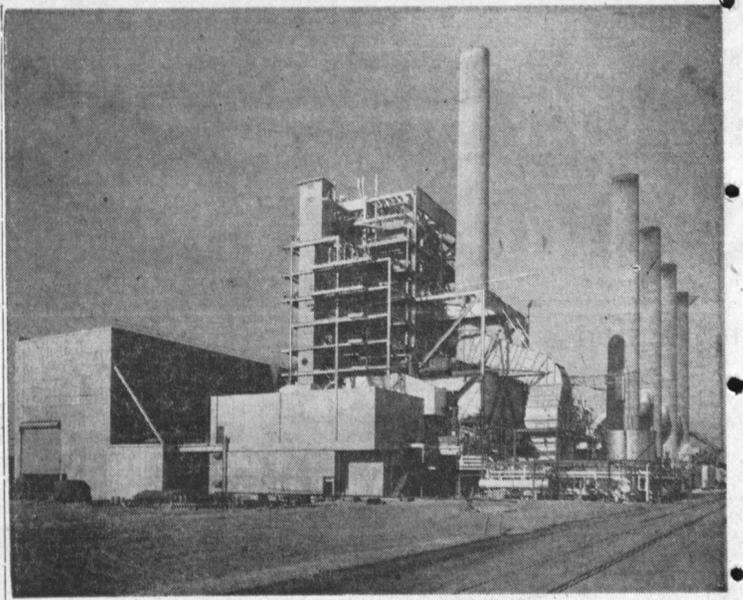
the plant's original 40-ton open hearth furnace in December of that year. Since then, the original 40-ton open hearth has been replaced with four 60-ton open hearth furnaces which have produced millions of tons of steel for world-wide use in peace and three wars.

Milestones of Progress

The U. S. Steel Torrance Works has many milestones of progress to its credit. Significant among these is the fact that the Torrance Works was the first steel mill in the nation to install electrostatic precipitators to each of its four open hearth furnaces to remove smoke and pollutants from this steelmaking operation.

Industrialists, scientists and government officials from throughout the world have been steady callers to Torrance since then to study this trailblazing accomplishment in the battle against air pollution.

The smog control devices have proved so successful at the Torrance Works that similar installations have been



EDISON POWER PLANT

One of Southern California Edison company's biggest single sources of electrical power is Redondo steam station. When its sixth generating unit is completed and ready for operation in July of next year, the station will have a generating capacity of 628,000 kilowatts and represent an Edison investment of approximately \$85,000,000.

Increase in Meters Shows City's Growth

Torrance is growing so fast that residents may be almost reluctant to go on vacation trips this summer for fear that they won't recognize the place when they return. G. L. Blanchard, Southern California Edison company district manager, commented this week.

Industrial and residential expansion has been so rapid that Torrance ranked second only to Los Angeles in building permits among 79 Southland cities during the first two months of this year, Blanchard noted.

Dramatic Growth

Even more dramatic in showing the area's tremendous growth is a comparison of the number of electric meters in use in the city of Torrance today and a decade ago. Blanchard reported that while there were only 4,108 meters here at the end of 1945 the figure on December 31, 1955, was 21,475. This is a ten-year increase in meters of more than 500 per cent, he pointed out.

developing new sources of electrical power and building adequate transmission and distribution facilities to deliver this power to the public already has resulted in a company investment of approximately \$670,000,000 since 1945.

And it is a continuing program. The Edison company plans to spend approximately \$250,000,000 during the two years, 1956-57, for additional construction and plant expansion, Blanchard said.

Work is underway on the sixth generating unit at nearby Redondo steam station, and it is expected to be ready for operation in July of next year. When completed, the sixth unit will add 165,000 kilowatts of generating capacity to the steam station's present capacity of 463,000 kilowatts.

made at various other steel mills throughout the country.

The precipitators have been operated on a round-the-clock schedule since they were installed in 1951. Rising 60 feet alongside the 126-foot open hearth stacks, the electrostatic precipitators operate like gigantic magnets in purifying smoke and fumes generated in the steelmaking process.

Cooling Tower

In December, 1955, the Torrance Works completed installation of a cooling tower which enables it to conserve approximately 900,000 gallons of water a day in operation of the plant's circulating system.

The tower makes possible the re-use of 96 per cent of the total water circulated with only a 4 per cent makeup requirement in operation of the plant's circulating system which cools rolling mills and other equipment used in the making and shaping of steel.

Blanchard said that the company now serves a total of 1,352,708 electric meters, more than twice the 670,463 figure of a decade ago. Edison added 86,899 new meters to its system during 1955 alone, making it the largest single-year increase in company history.

Careful Planning

Being in a position to meet the electrical needs of all these new residential and industrial customers did not "just happen." Instead, it took careful planning and execution of a mammoth building and expansion program by Edison to make the growth possible, Blanchard declared.

Edison's postwar program of

Nearly Completed

Even closer to completion is the second 165,000-kilowatt generating unit at El Segundo Steam Station. The first unit, also 165,000 kilowatt capacity, started operation in May of last year, and No. 2 is expected to go on the line this August. Anticipated cost of this second unit is approximately \$19,700,000, according to Blanchard.

The first 165,000-kilowatt generating unit of still another new Edison facility, Alamitos Steam Station, near Long Beach is tentatively scheduled to begin operation in September of this year, and Alamitos Unit No. 2's "target" completion date is September, 1957.

All Types Of Plants At Nursery

One of the largest and most complete nurseries in the area, George's Nursery, is located at 21507 South Main street. Situated on five acres of land, it will celebrate its tenth anniversary in May at which time it will feature many specials.

The nursery does a lot of the landscaping work in Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes, George M. O'Hara, owner, stated.

The nursery offers tropical plants, specializes in big trees (all varieties), regular garden variety plants, fruit trees, roses, large shade trees, and installs fish ponds, garden walks and steps, patios, rustic fences, and rock gardens.



George's Nursery, located at 21507 S. Main st., is one of the largest in the area and does a lot of the landscaping work in Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes.—Press Photo.

How good is a job in Steel?

Steel's new expansion will create thousands of new jobs.

What kind of jobs will they be?

Steelworkers' jobs are good jobs—far above average on any basis of comparison you choose to appraise them.

Do steel jobs pay well?

Yes! Average hourly earnings in the steel industry are nearly 30 per cent higher than the average for all manufacturing workers. The average pay received by steelworkers throughout the country exceeds \$100 a week.

What about benefits?

Steelworkers have many substantial benefits, such as pensions, insurance and others.

Are jobs in steel safe?

Steelworkers are safer at work than they are at home. Accident frequency in the steel mills is only half the average for all manufacturing industries.

How about advancement?

Steel is still one of the fastest growing industries—full of opportunities for advancement for the skilled and the unskilled worker.

The wide range of wage rates, from unskilled to highly skilled work, provides a great deal of opportunity for advancement. Differentials between skilled and unskilled jobs have been maintained to provide the incentive to advance to jobs requiring higher skills at proportionately better pay.

Yes, a job in steel is a good job—well-paid, safe and interesting. Mechanical devices have reduced manual labor all along the line.

Steel's vast expansion, to cost billions of dollars, is creating new jobs like these—good jobs with good futures.

America and Steel Must Grow Together

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